

BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2024

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

For “The Interview” this month, I talk to a lady that featured in the bulletin late last year. She had her 100th birthday party at a bridge club.

I am writing this editorial from Canberra airport waiting for a late flight back to Melbourne on a Saturday night.

Optimistically, as it turns out, I booked a late-night flight in case the team I was on reached the semi-finals of the National Open Teams. Suffice to say, we were beaten in the quarter finals so I had a pleasant day walking around Canberra and familiarizing myself with every inch of the airport in a six-hour stint.

There was an interesting twist to our quarter final match. On Thursday night, the last match in the qualifying stage, the captain sat my partner and myself out (we had a six-person team) because my partner felt a little under the weather.

As I was waiting for our teammates to finish the match, I received a phone call from my partner. He said that he had taken a ‘rat’ test and it revealed that he tested positive for covid. I cheekily said on the phone that I heard you but I didn’t hear you. It was later discussed whether my partner was sensible or silly to take a covid test.

Anyway, a short time later, our teammates won their last match to qualify for the quarter finals. I then told them about my partner’s phone call.

Once our semi-final opponents were known, I explained the situation and they, quite correctly, stated that my partner couldn’t play in the match tomorrow. A final ruling from the ‘powers-to-be’ confirmed the news.

After a lot of late-night emails and telephone calls, the ‘powers-to-be’ agreed that I could play with a suitable substitute. After another few phone calls, I was fortunate enough to speak to a Sydney friend who was deemed a ‘Goldilocks’ choice (not too good, not too bad but just right) by the ‘powers-to-be’.



Above is a picture of Chris Hughes looking puzzled at home.

The following morning at 8:30am, my Sydney friend and I had a twenty-minute system discussion and then went into play (it wasn’t all doom and gloom because we had played before many years ago but we kept it simple).

As stated before, we lost a close match but the outcome of the verdict of the ‘powers-to-be’ was a big step in the right direction. If a player is sick (with covid or anything else) playing in a tournament, they should be encouraged to reveal this fact and not play. This means that my partner was ‘sensible’ to take the covid test. Moreover, the team shouldn’t be penalised and all avenues should be addressed so that the team can continue (a suitable substitute can be used is one obvious option). This is especially true for a four-person team (that is another story – been there done that when one of the player’s got food poisoning and fortunately the janitor had played before).

I hope you all had a great festive season and a great start to the new year.

Submit all your input to the following email address

editor@bridgevictoria.au

Bridge Victoria Operating Committee

Chair – Colin Jasper

"The only way to improve is to play against the best."

Pep Guardiola

What are your plans for improving your bridge game in 2024? If you have yet to play in congresses, state competitions or Victoria's gold point event – The Victor Champion Cup, perhaps this should be the year. In addition to being a great way to develop your game, they are also fun social events with other bridge enthusiasts.

Congresses

Most Victorian Clubs host a congress each year, so you will be able to find one near you. A current listing of all congresses can be found on the Bridge Victoria Website under [upcoming events](#). In addition to the open section, most congresses award prizes for the best restricted pair, to recognise and support those with less experience.

Upcoming congresses include:

- Yarra Valley – 3rd February
- Rye / Dromana – 9th March
- Whittlesea – 10th March
- BW Online – 23rd-24th March.

State Events

Perhaps you could also consider playing in a state event. These are also listed on the Bridge Victoria [website](#) and can be entered via [MyABF](#). The next state event is the Victorian Open Pairs, a four-week event commencing on 28th February. One of the beauties of bridge is it's one of the few competitions where anyone can enter an event and play against some of country's best players and this will be one of those events.

- [Victorian Open Pairs](#) – Commencing 28th February

Victor Champion Cup

Bridge players fly in from all over the country to play in the Victor Champion Cup. The event will again be held at the stunning Moonee Valley Racecourse. While competition at the top will continue to be fierce, there will also be events for restricted players. Held over the King's Birthday weekend, we encourage you to put it in your diary now.

- [Victor Champion Cup](#) – 6th-10th June.



Summer Festival of Bridge – Canberra

Many Victorian players travelled to Canberra in January to participate in Youth Week and the Summer Festival of Bridge.

Jenny Thompson was on the winning team in Women's National team playoff. This qualifies her to represent Australia at the world championships to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October this year.

Not to be outdone, Ben Thompson's team won a tightly fought out final, to claim the National Open Teams title.

Congratulations to both Ben and Jenny. The Victorian Bridge community is substantially richer for having you both a part of it.

My favourite story coming out of the Summer Festival of Bridge was a simple encounter at one table with two youth players. During the bidding, the young man who would end up being declarer was asked to explain his partner's bid. Upon completion of the play, the declarer highlighted that he had incorrectly described the bid. Not only did he volunteer this information, he insisted on taking off one trick, the setting trick! He highlighted that if he had described the bid correctly it would have allowed the opposition to make a lead directing double which would have defeated the contract.

While I'd love to name the players involved, I don't have their permission. These behaviours are wonderful at any age, but to have them demonstrated by younger players is even better for the future of bridge.

Bridge Victoria Website.

Our website is evolving and improving with feedback from players and clubs. Over the summer months we have turned our attention to updating documents for clubs and players. The following documents have been updated and are in the process of being added to the website:

Resources for Clubs:

<https://bridgevictoria.au/resources-for-clubs/>

- Info for new clubs
- Congresses:
 - BV Tournament Regulations
 - Congress Organiser's guide
 - Congress Director's Report
 - Congress Organiser's Report
 - Congress Planning and Equipment Timeline
 - Congress Checklists
 - Congress D&E
- Affiliation:
 - Bridge Club Affiliation
 - Application form for clubs to affiliate
- Funding (BV Funding Policy and Funding Application)
- BV Advertising Rate Card
- Capitation Fees
- State Reactivation Fee

Resources for Players:

<https://bridgevictoria.au/information-for-players/>

- Handy Guide for Novices (Tips for new Players)
- Player rights to enter Congresses.

Bridge Victoria Operating Committee (BVOC) Elections

Over the coming weeks, we will be going through the process of electing the BVOC committee for 2024. There will be at least one representative from each of the three country regions (elections timed to take place during the regional championships). These will be matched by three representatives from metro regions.

This is the first time these elections have taken place and mark an important step forward in Bridge Victoria being a representative body of bridge players and clubs across the state. If you have an interest in being involved, please feel free to contact me directly.

Colin Jasper
Bridge Victoria Operating Committee
Chair

WE WISH YOU A GREAT MONTH OF BRIDGE AND PLEASE
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US AT THIS EMAIL ADDRESS:
info@bridgevictoria.au.

VICTORIAN TEAM SELECTION AND ABF UPDATES FROM JENNY THOMPSON.

1.

Nominations are now open for four **VQP teams** to participate in the Victorian Open Team Selection Final will be held at the Victorian Bridge Centre on the weekend of the 13th & 14th April. The winner of that final will represent Victoria in the Open Teams at the 2024 Australian National Championships to be held in Orange NSW commencing July 7.

Players are encouraged to organize teams from the [listing for 2023](#) and nominate teams of 4 or 6 players. Team nominations should be submitted to the Match & Tournament Committee via email MTC@vba.asn.au. The submission deadline is 22nd March with players only able to nominate within a single team for the team to be successful in selection. Teams with the highest combined VQP player totals will be invited to participate in the final.

Congratulations to Neil Ewart who won the most VQP's in 2023 with Chen Ding 2nd and David Beckett 3rd.

2.

MyABF have just released some changes to the program, and I would like all clubs and players to be aware of these significant enhancements.

A new release has just been loaded onto MyABF. This is for players, clubs, and Tournament Organisers. Please refer to the following links to see the changes.

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/players/>

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/tournament-organisers/>

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/clubs/>

Moreover, at the Gold Coast Congress in February, there will be an information session for players and clubs on Wednesday 21st February at lunchtime straight after play in rooms 10/11/12. (Jullian Foster, the MyABF guru, will be running the session).

3.

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION REGULATIONS FOR WRITTEN BIDDING AND BIDDING BOXES

The following should be incorporated in our procedures for all Victorian clubs.

- a. When screens are not in use, all the bidding cards should remain on the table until after the opening lead has been faced.
- b. Until they are removed from the table, a player can review the auction by inspecting the bidding cards. After the bidding cards are restored to their boxes a player may, at his/her first turn to play, require all previous calls to be restated (Law 20C2). Only an opponent shall respond to this request and when screens are in use it shall be written.

We believe that the incorporation of these procedures will greatly assist all players and especially the less experienced.

Jenny Thompson

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS

The following hand took place in a team event

West leads the $\spadesuit K$.

NORTH(D)

\spadesuit AJ62
 \heartsuit AK54
 \diamondsuit 52
 \clubsuit KT3

WEST

\spadesuit
 \heartsuit
 \diamondsuit
 \clubsuit

EAST

\spadesuit
 \heartsuit
 \diamondsuit
 \clubsuit

SOUTH

\spadesuit KT3
 \heartsuit 76
 \diamondsuit A7
 \clubsuit AQJ965

Decide how you are going to play this hand.

You can always pull trumps and guess who has the $\spadesuit Q$.

Is there any other possibility?

Hint: the chance that both opponents have two or more \heartsuit s is around 92%.

What is your plan from here?

The answer is at the end of the bulletin.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1NT	P	3 \clubsuit	P
3 \heartsuit	P	4 \clubsuit	P
4 \spadesuit	P	4NT	P
5 \diamondsuit	P	6 \clubsuit	All Pass

1NT is 15-17 and 3 \clubsuit is a slam try.

When North cooperates, South uses Blackwood, after a second cue bid from North, and 6 \clubsuit is reached.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH

Neither side vulnerable

West leads the $\heartsuit 3$.

Your task is slightly different in this bulletin.

Assuming that each opponent has one of the two missing \heartsuit honours (Q and J) and \heartsuit s are 3 – 2, you must construct a layout of the opponent's cards and a line of play that allows the contract to make.

What is your plan from here?

Answer in the next bulletin.

Send in your play to

editor@bridgevictoria.au

NORTH(D)

\heartsuit A6
 \spadesuit AK65
 \diamondsuit AJ8
 \clubsuit A954

WEST

\heartsuit
 \spadesuit
 \diamondsuit
 \clubsuit

EAST

\heartsuit
 \spadesuit
 \diamondsuit
 \clubsuit

SOUTH(D)

\heartsuit KT9853
 \spadesuit 73
 \diamondsuit KQ6
 \clubsuit T8

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 \clubsuit	P	1 \heartsuit	P
2NT	P	4 \heartsuit	P
5 \heartsuit	P	6 \heartsuit	ALL PASS

I have indicated a possible full adrenalin auction.

The hand was given to me by TP, a regular and very much appreciated contributor.

He suggested that, if the contract is makeable, how do you proceed? He asked me to come up with a solution (he didn't tell me his one).



THE INTERVIEW

THE SECOND INTERVIEW IS WITH BETTY REID

Betty (Bet) Reid featured in the November 2023 bulletin when she was given a surprise party for her 100th birthday at the Bayside Bridge Club.

I decided to go along to the Bayside Bridge Club and have a chat to her on Monday 11th December before her regular weekly bridge session. Along with her friends, we spoke for about twenty-five minutes before the session started.

She has a slight hearing issue and uses a walking frame but other than that she looks exceptionally fit for her age. She is in excellent physical condition for her age but, the thing that I admired the most was her alert mind. She gave well thought out answers, generally in an understated fashion, and recalled events accurately with the assistance of her circle of friends.

Anybody that reaches this age would be proud to look and be as alert as Bet. Most people would be happy to be able to hold the thirteen cards without dropping them and hope that they were dummy on every board. According to her friends, Bet plays a 'mean' game of bridge at the club.

The following is the summary of my written notes from the interview.

Editor:

Where were you born?

Bet:

I was born in Dublin in Ireland but spent my early years in England. I then spent some time in France before moving back to England.

Editor:

When did you come to Australia?

Bet:

My father was an architect and he had organised work in Australia in 1939 before the war started. The family left for Australia in the same year just after the war had been declared. I have been in Australia and, specifically Melbourne, ever since.

My father helped design several commercial buildings in the Melbourne CBD. These included many of the popular stores that have since vanished from the landscape.

Editor:

Did you play card games or something similar at home?

Bet:

I have always liked playing card games and I enjoyed playing the game of solo for years. (Editor's Note: Solo is a trick taking card game for four players in which players can bid to make eight tricks in trumps with any partner, or a solo contract playing against the other three players. Thus, it combines both partnership and cut-throat play).

Editor:

When did you get involved in the local bridge scene and what prompted you to start playing?

Bet:

I have lived in this area for a very long time and, with a friend's encouragement, I went to the Bayside Bridge Club (that operated out of the Beaumaris Bowls Club) and I have never looked back. When the Bayside Bridge Club moved to its current premises in the Hampton RSL Club (when the Beaumaris Bowls Club was being renovated), I moved here into this current location.

Editor:

How did you get to this new location?

Bet:

I had my driver's licence up to a year ago. However, I decided to give driving away at that time. A friend now picks me up for our weekly bridge session.

Editor:

What about your family life?

Bet:

My husband passed away in 1974. We brought up three lovely daughters whilst we were married. I never remarried and basically retired to take care of the family.

Editor:

Did you have any other hobbies other than playing cards?

Bet: I played a little tennis when I was younger. (Editor's Note: Tennis was played in Yarrawonga before 1890 with games reported between Yarrawonga and neighbouring towns. The Yarrawonga event was played annually during Bet's playing days and was [as we would probably refer to it these days as a 'semi-pro' event] of a very decent standard and Bet performed very well).

Editor:

So, since 1974, you have been a full-time mother who likes playing bridge?

Bet:

I was the first female air hostess for TAA. (Editor's Note: **Trans Australia Airlines (TAA)**, renamed **Australian Airlines** in 1986, was one of the two major Australian domestic airlines between its inception in 1946 and its merger with Qantas in September 1992. As a result of the "COBRA" (or Common Branding) project, the entire airline was rebranded Qantas about a year later).

Editor:

So, since 1974, you have been a full-time mother who likes playing bridge and an air hostess?

Bet:

In 1976, I was hired as a tour guide and took people to Canada and America. However, circumstances were such that I had to leave the position after a couple of years.

Editor:

So, since 1974, you have been a full-time mother who likes playing bridge and an air hostess and tour guide? Directing this question to the group, I asked what bridge systems do you play?

Bet:

Her friends confirmed that she plays a 'mean game' playing Standard American with the normal transfer bids. Then Bet cheekily said, "but there is no funny business".

It was a pleasure interviewing Bet and her friends (a group picture follows on the next page) but getting any substantial details from her was a challenge as she graciously down played any of her achievements



From left to right - Barbara Brennan, Penny Hallam, Jan Gibbs, Gwen Bayliss and Betty Reid

BRIDGE HUMOUR



THE INQUISITIVE OPPONENT

Playing in a local club event, Jack was seated in the South seat playing with his long-time friend, Peter.

Jack and Peter always enjoyed a little good-natured banter at the table and they tried to keep the atmosphere pleasant for all the players that came to their table in this pairs event. The director had decided that they play three boards in each round.

Part way through the evening, Sam sat in the West seat and Gertrude sat in the East seat. The East-West pair were new to the club, so Peter introduced himself and hoped that they enjoyed their adventure.

On the first board, Gertrude passed and Jack opened 1NT and Peter, quiet correctly, stated that it was 15 to 17 points. Sam turned to Jack and asked if he had ever opened 1NT on 14 points. Jack replied that he would only upgrade a 14-point hand on days with a full moon and then only when he held a ten in each suit. Sam then continued by asking Jack whether he had ever opened 1NT on a bad 18-point hand. Jack replied that he didn't believe that any 18-point hand could be considered bad and, no, unless he miscounted his points, I don't think that I ever done this before.

The bidding and subsequent card play then was completed for the first board. Then, as dealer on the second board, Jack opened 1H. Sam picked up Jack and Peter's system card and noted that they were playing Standard American with five card majors. Sam then asked Jack if he had ever opened 1H on a four-card suit in first position. Jack was a little taken aback by these continuing questions but he answered politely that he had. Sam asked him the circumstances that prompted this deviation from system. Jack answered that he had inadvertently placed a diamond in with his hearts and that it was a complete accident. Sam then asked whether Jack would open 1H with a solid heart suit and more than a 19-point hand or would he open a game forcing 2C bid. Sam replied that he would not open 2C with that hand only on days that didn't finish with a 'y'.

The bidding and subsequent card play then was completed for the second board. As dealer on the third board, Sam passed and Peter opened a vulnerable 2S in second position. After Gertrude and Jack passed, Sam asked Jack what 2S represented. Jack stated that it was a weak two bid in spades indicating a six-card suit and less than an opening hand. Sam asked what the point range was for this bid. Jack said it was about 6 to 10 points but, as he is vulnerable, it would tend to be in the middle to upper range. Sam continued by asking if he always would have two of the top three honours in spades.

Jack was getting a little frustrated by now. He put his own cards on the table and reached across to Peter's hand and said that he could have a look at them and let Sam know exactly what Peter held. Sam looked perplexed and said that you can't do that. Jack said it might be the only way to answer your question.

The above story is based on true events but the names of the players and the exact circumstances of the encounter are not accurate.



RESULTS

RESULTS FOR DECEMBER -VICTORIA

MINI YARRA VALLEY CONGRESS

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER

32 pairs contested the Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Ming Zhang	Daniel Mao
2nd	Christine Louie	Herman Louie
3rd	Chen Ding	Jack Huang

RESULTS FOR DECEMBER – NATIONAL

2023 GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS FINAL

Brisbane 1-4 December, 2023

Winners

SYDNEY 2
David Wiltshire – Ellena Moskovsky – David Beauchamp – Sophie Ashton – Matthew Thomson

Runners Up

SYDNEY 5
Yumin Li – Peter Jeffery – Andrew Peake – Giselle Mundell

Best Country Team

TABLELANDS ILLAWARRA 1
Kaye Hart – Jeff Carberry – Paul Lavings – Vicky Lisle – Helen Lavings – Ian Lisle

GNOT Swiss Pairs

Champions

Gulzar Bilal – Mohamed Ghatwari

Best Metropolitan Pair

Jarrad Dunbar – Joshua Tomlin

Best Provincial Pair

Denny Newland – Stephen Lester

Best Country Pair

Jan Randall – Don Cameron

Editor's note: There are some excellent Victorian results in the GNOT Swiss Pairs – Champions (Gulzar Bilal – Mohamed Ghatwari) and Best Provincial Pair (Denny Newland – Stephen Lester).

2023 AUSTRALIA WIDE TEAMS CLUB KNOCKOUT FINALS

Held on the 12th December

The finals of the 2023 Australia Wide Teams Club Knockout were played on December 12

Winners

Open

Tasmanian BA 49 d. Wagga Wagga 28

Under 750 MP

Newcastle 63 d. Glenelg 28

Under 100 MP

QCBC 51 d. Mollymook 35

Under 50 MP

Waverley 56 d. Ballina 39

2024 AUSTRALIAN MIXED TEAM PLAYOFF

DECEMBER 9TH – 14TH 2023

Teams

THOMSON

David Beauchamp - Jodi Tutty, Maurits VanDer Vlugt - Dagmar Neumann, Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby

HARRISON

Shane Harrison - Jessica Brake, Bruce Neill - Sue Lusk

COLES

Trevor Fuller - Leone Fuller, Sebastian Yuen - Christy Geromboux, George Kozakos - Pele Rankin

THOMPSON

Ben Thompson - Renee Cooper, David Wiltshire - Sophie Ashton, Jamie Thompson - Ella Jacob

FREE

Jonathan Free - Mimi Packer, Peter Reynolds - Jane Reynolds. Will Jenner-O'Shea - Vanessa Brown

FOSTER

Michael Courtney - Joan Butts, Hugh Grosvenor - Tania Lloyd, Julian Foster - Giselle Mundell

MCLEISH

Paul Hooykaas - Therese Tully, David Mcleish - Paula Mcleish

Just like the Open playoff in November, each match was a gruelling two-day affair.

The Quarter Final results

THOMSON beat McLEISH
THOMPSON beat FREE
HARRISON beat FOSTER
COLES had a bye in this round

The Semi Final results

HARRISON beat COLES
THOMSON beat THOMPSON

The Final

THOMSON beat HARRISON

The final was a close and very exciting affair.

Going into the final set Harrison was leading 203 to 174.1

There were four slam hands in the last set. The bidding and making of three of these boards eventually decided the match.

Thomson eventually won 245.1 to 239

THOMSON David Beauchamp - Jodi Tutty, Maurits VanDer Vlugt - Dagmar Neumann, Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby
They will represent Australia in Argentina later this year.

Ian Thomson is the non-playing-Captain

RESULTS FOR JANUARY - NATIONAL

In the early part of January, the youth get the stage as they play in youth week.

Jenny Thompson writes the following -

The 2024 Youth Week, which was held in Canberra just before the Summer Festival of Bridge, was convened by Laura Ginnan. This was a very successful event with over 62 participants turning up (this year, players under the age of 40 were eligible to attend). Laura also organised a fundraising event prior to the event which raised over \$4,000. I want to personally thank Laura for everything she does to support our youth players.

There were a variety of events held during the week, some just for fun and others more serious including qualification for the 2024 Australia Youth Squad.

The 2024 Youth Squad is Jack Luke-Paredi and George Bartley, Bertie Morgan and Alex Goss, Lara Topper and Tomer Libman, Zac Ross and Kate MacDonald, Jasmine Skeate and Paddy Taylor and Yiwei Qi and Aadhi Hariharan.

The first three pairs, including Alex from Victoria, have been now selected to represent Australia as its U26 team for 2024. The World Youth Championships for 2024 will be held in Wroclaw, Poland on July 13-18.

During the week certificates were given out to the members of the 2023 youth team and Victorians, Damon Flicker (third from the left) and Alex Goss (far right) were among those team members.



It is so exciting to be involved with the young bridge players, especially in my role as ABF Council Youth Liaison Rep, and I ask everyone out there to encourage as many young people they know to get involved in our wonderful game.

Paul Marston and Nevena Djurovic are about to present a special online Introduction to Bridge course for young people, aged 14 to 24, in conjunction with the ABF. The course will be in May 2024, consisting of 4 lessons and 4 practice sessions of about one hour, with the whole thing being entirely free. Registrations will open in April and a registration link will be provided at the end of March, which you will be able to pass on to any potential new students.

Bec O'Reilly has recently stepped down from her role as ABF Youth Co-Ordinator and we thank her for the dedication and hard work she did during that time.

Bec is still the Youth Co-Ordinator for Victoria and on Tuesday evenings there are sessions held for youth players at the Victorian Bridge Centre. If you are interested in learning, playing or supporting Youth Bridge in Victoria we would love to hear from you! Please contact Bec via email: vicyouthbridge@gmail.com, phone: 0432783480 or follow Victorian Youth Bridge on Facebook.

Thank you

Jenny Thompson

For the rest of us who are over 40 and some of those who aren't, the annual pilgrimage to January was undertaken following Youth week..

The remaining two teams to represent Australia in Argentina were selected (the open and mixed teams were selected late 2023 – the open result was shown in the December bulletin and the mixed result in this bulletin) in the first week.

The Seniors' final was fought out between the FREE and LORENTZ teams

The **FREE** team members were

George Smolanko - Jonathan Free - Attilio De Luca - Ron Cooper

The **LORENTZ** team members were

Gabi Lorentz - Stephen Burgess - Paul Lavings - Andrew Braithwaite - Arjuna De Livera - Robert Krochmalik

The **LORENTZ** team were victorious 303 – 160.1 and represent Australia

The Women's final was fought out between the JACOB and LUSK teams

The **JACOB** team members were

Ella Jacob - Jenny Thompson - Renee Cooper - Jane Reynolds

The **LUSK** team members were

Paula Mcleish - Pele Rankin - Jessica Brake - Susan Humphries - Sue Lusk - Viv Wood

The **JACOB** team were victorious 229.1 - 175 and represent Australia.

Editor's note: Victoria's Jenny Thompson was on the winning team. (below in the bulletin, Jenny will give more details on this event in her 'Update' section).

Besides these two qualifying events for the Australian teams, there are two other major events in Canberra each year at the end of the first week and the second week.

TBIB OPEN SWISS PAIRS

142 pairs contested this very strong event and the placegetters were

1 st	Alex Smirnov	Shane Harrison
2 nd	Ben Chosid	Christy Geromboux
3 rd	Tony Nunn	Paul Dalley

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC TEAMS

76 teams contested this event and the top eight finishers were

1ST LAZER

Andrew Braithwaite - Arjuna De Livera - Ian Robinson - Neil Ewart - Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby

2ND J. THOMPSON

Michael Whibley - Robert Fruewirth - Jamie Thompson - Tony Leibowitz

3RD MINSK

Mike Doecke - David Wiltshire - Jessica Brake - Will Jenner-O'shea

4TH DALLEY

Ashley Bach - Arlene Dalley - Tony Nunn - Paul Dalley

5TH WESTON

Chris Hughes - Ron Klinger - David Weston - Bruce Neill - Kim Morrison - Julian Foster

6TH ASHTON

Maurits Van Der Vlugt - David Beauchamp - Andrew Spooner - Sophie Ashton - Matt Mullamphy

7TH TRAVIS

David Appleton - Joachim Haffer - Brad Coles - Joshua Tomlin - Lauren Travis - Philip Markey

8TH B THOMPSON

Peter Newman - Ben Thompson - Renee Cooper - Matthew Thomson

This event now flows into the **NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS** knockout

The **QUARTER FINALS** were as follows

LAZER beat **WESTON** 82.1 – 68

TRAVIS beat **J. THOMPSON** 153 – 134.1

ASHTON beat **MINSK** 153 – 141.1

B. THOMPSON beat **DALLEY** 152 – 76.1

The **SEMI FINALS** were as follows

ASHTON beat **LAZER** 166 – 145.1

B. THOMPSON beat **TRAVIS** 178 – 123.1

The **FINAL** was as follows

B. THOMPSON beat **ASHTON** 134 – 116.1 (*a Victorian in the winning team - Ben Thompson*)



The Winning team (on the left) – B. THOMPSON team

From left to right - Matthew Thomson, Ben Thompson, Renee Cooper, Peter Newman

The Runner's Up (on the right) – ASHTON team

From left to right - Andrew Spooner, Matt Mullanphy, Sophie Ashton, David Beauchamp

Maurits Van Der Vlugt (not in the picture)



UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEB & MARCH

VICTORIA

YARRA VALLEY CONGRESS

Saturday 3rd February

See brochure on the following page

RYE/DROMANA PAIRS CONGRESS

Saturday 9th March

See brochure on a following page

WHITTLESEA CONGRESS

Sunday 10th March

WHITTLESEA BOWLS CLUB

101 CHURCH STREET WHITTLESEA

03 9716 1966

BW ONLINE CONGRESS

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th March



Yarra Valley Bridge Club Inc.

Yarra Valley Bridge Club 2024 Congress

Red Point Event

Swiss Pairs: Saturday 3rd February 2024, starting time is 10.00am.

Venue: Waverley Bridge Club
Electra Community Centre
21a Electra Avenue, Ashwood, Victoria

Entries: www.bridgeunlimited.com

Congress Director: Laurie Kelso

Congress Convenor: Clare Stratton (0438 547 647)
clarestratton@bigpond.com

If uncontactable please contact Maureen, Secretary, Yarra Valley Bridge Club: yvbc@yarravalleybridgeclub.au (0402 241 200)

Registration opens at 9:30am

Table fees are \$45 per player

(Payment by cash or card)

Tea, coffee, and snacks provided throughout the day,
please **Bring Your Own** lunch.

Our committee is very grateful for Waverley Bridge Club accommodating our congress.



RYE DROMANA BRIDGE CONGRESS

One day Swiss Pairs event to be held on Saturday 9th of March 2024

Two Sections - **Open**
Restricted
(under 300 MP)

FRANK McCONVILL TROPHY - BEST LOCAL PAIR

(Please note: This is Labour Weekend)

VENUE: Rosebud Over 50's Social Club Rooms
121-123 Ninth Ave, Rosebud

REGISTRATION : OPENS AT 9.30am for 10am start

COST : \$45 per person

PAYMENT BY CASH OR CARD

LUNCH will NOT be provided but Tea, Coffee, Water
and ample snacks will be available.

(Sandwiches may be ordered prior to the day at a cost of \$8.00 per packet
by messaging one of the convenors)

CONVENORS:

Jill Haworth 0410652298 chefdaisy52@yahoo.com.au
Margaret Morgan 0447806699 mjmorgan@bigpond.net.au

DIRECTOR:Laurie Kelso

ENTRIES:BRIDGE UNLIMITED

The Congress will be conducted under current VBA Rules and Regulations

System cards will be mandatory
All mobile phones to be switched OFF during play

This is a long weekend, so book accommodation now, if needed.

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE?

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♠	P	1NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

Both sides are vulnerable.

You are sitting East and see the above auction.

Your partner, West, leads the ♣3 (4th best) and dummy comes down as follows.

NORTH(D)

♠AKQT98

♥76

♦K65

♣A8

EAST

♠J65

♥K32

♦AJT

♣K642

Trick one proceeds - ♣8, you play ♣K and declarer follows with the ♣5.

Rightly or wrongly, you lead the ♣2 and it goes ♣9, ♣T from partner and dummy wins the ♣A.

Declarer now leads the ♦5 from dummy.

What is your plan?

Answer at the end of the bulletin.

OTHER

RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS – AS UPDA TED BY THE CLUBS IN DECEMBER 2023

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Alexandra Club	Happell, Jane	Regional
Alexandra Club	Hills, Jane	Regional
Ballarat Bridge Club	Childs, James	Club
Ballarat Bridge Club	Dunne, Leigh	Club
Ballarat Bridge Club	Li, Ping	State
Bayside Bridge Club	Beaman, Fabienne	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Demytko, Nick	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Dennis, Anne	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Lee, Kim	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Lipari, Christine	Silver Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Lipp, Mary	Bronze State
Bayside Bridge Club	Norman, Deb	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Rotstein, Felice	Bronze Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Sacks, Mandy	Bronze Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Strong, Carolyn	Bronze Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Wales, Barry	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Williams, Ken	Bronze State
Bayside Bridge Club	Williams, Maree	Club
Bendigo Bridge Club	Monotti, Rosemary	Bronze National
Berwick Bridge Club	Delaney, John	Silver National
Bridge Fanatics Club	Gory, Allan	Bronze State
Bridge Fanatics Club	Leiba, Allan	National
Bridge@Blake Bridge Club	Spicer, Cynthia	Bronze Local
Frankston Bridge Club	Beckman, Sue	Silver Life
Frankston Bridge Club	Spurling, Anita	Local
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Gould, Lucy	Bronze National
Geelong Bridge Club	Comisel, Heather	Club
Geelong Bridge Club	Degoldi, Marlene	Club
Geelong Bridge Club	Lester, Stephen	Gold Grand
Geelong Bridge Club	Thomas, Kathy	Silver Local
Kattery Bridge Club	Maher, Marilyn	Graduate
Kattery Bridge Club	Thomas, Debbie	Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Douglas, Sue	National
KLTC Bridge Club	Eager, Richard	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Hudson, Robin	Silver Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Tulloch, Kerin	State
Lyceum Club	Bonnington, Jay	Club

Lyceum Club	Cliff, Merren	Graduate
Lyceum Club	Kelly, Anne-Maree	Graduate
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Waters, Annie	Silver Local
Maine Bridge Club	Lau, Werner	Local
Maine Bridge Club	Madden, Tracey	Club
MCC Bridge Club	Wigley, Jo	Graduate
Melbourne Bridge Club	Beggs, Kathryn	State
Melbourne Bridge Club	Sampson, Sean	Club
Melbourne Bridge Club	Smith, John	Graduate
Melbourne Bridge Club	Stratova, Svitlana	Graduate
Melton Bridge Club	Moh, Nai-Shuw	Graduate
Mildura Bridge Club	Gerber, Margaret	Silver Local
Mildura Bridge Club	Wilson, Gwen	Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Arnott, Toni	State
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Boundy, Bernadette	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Christie, Tim	Silver Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Cox, Ian	Regional
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Ghatwari, Mohamed	Bronze National
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	McRobert, Gordon	Grand
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Utri, Garry	Graduate
Mornington Bridge Club	Baker, Geoff	Silver Local
Mornington Bridge Club	Cooper, Pat	Bronze State
Mornington Bridge Club	Weir, Marie	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Carbuhn, Ray	Bronze Regional
Northern Bridge Club	King, Jan	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Liu, Anita	Club
Northern Bridge Club	Persson, Libby	Silver National
Northern Bridge Club	Swanson, Geoff	Silver Local
Northern Bridge Club	Templeton, Brenda	Graduate
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Kay, Sheena	Local
OZ Bridge Club	Rothfield, Judy	Regional
Patterson Lakes Bridge Club	Sanders, Jan	Local
Peninsula Bridge Club	Buchanan, Graham	Silver Local
Peninsula Bridge Club	Lyall, David	Club
Peninsula Bridge Club	Mahoney, Joan	Club
Peninsula Bridge Club	Schuster, Peter	State
Phillip Island Bridge Club	O'Connell, Judy	Graduate
RACV Bridge Group	Clatworthy, Rhonda	Club
RACV Bridge Group	Duncan, Kimi	Regional
RACV Bridge Group	Fieldus, Alan	Club
RACV Bridge Group	Fitchett, Margaret	Graduate
RACV Bridge Group	Morgan, Trefor	Local
RACV Bridge Group	Wallis, Adrian	Club
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Abercrombie, Shadda	State
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Baenziger, Susy	Graduate

Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Batchelor, Felicity	Bronze Regional
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Hamra, Lisa	Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Lemaistre, Edwina	Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Leonard, Jenny	Bronze Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Richards, Kate	Graduate
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Williams, Anne	Bronze Local
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Gowan, Dee	Local
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Shergold, Shelley	National
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Wyld, Irene	Graduate
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Chapman, Phillip	Bronze National
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Currier, John	State
South Gippsland Bridge Club	McIntosh, Doug	Club
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Perriam, Julie	Bronze Local
The Quiet Club	Sweeney, Anne	Graduate
The Quiet Club	Wawn, Brian	National
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Barrow, Trevor	Local
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Hume, Therese	Graduate
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Keyte, Jane	Bronze National
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Pearson, Margaret	Bronze Regional
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Pollock, Jim	Graduate
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Quayle, Bevan	Graduate
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Roe, John	Graduate
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Thomas, Cecily	Club
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Witcombe, Alison	Club
Traralgon Bridge Club	Strickland, Alison	Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Adams, John	Gold Life
Victorian Bridge Centre	Batten, Cynthia	Bronze State
Victorian Bridge Centre	Beaconsfield, Sharon	Club
Victorian Bridge Centre	Bush, Dorothy	Life
Victorian Bridge Centre	Longair, Robert	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Centre	Meydan, Arie	Silver Grand
Victorian Bridge Centre	Pumphrey, Laura	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Centre	Shenker, Marie	State
Victorian Bridge Centre	Sput, Michael	Regional
Victorian Bridge Centre	Wingreen, Eleanor	State
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Brien, Leonie	Graduate
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Davidson, Faye	Silver Local
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Nicholson, Michelle	Graduate
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Payton Todd, Cheryl	Graduate
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Shiels, Allen	Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Campbell, Yvonne	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Ferguson, Marg	State
Waverley Bridge Club	Gu, Kevin	State
Waverley Bridge Club	Hargreaves, Trish	Bronze Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Heyes, Anne	National

Waverley Bridge Club	Joglekar, Nitin	Silver Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Kilham, Timothy	State
Waverley Bridge Club	Lee, Vicki	National
Waverley Bridge Club	Lukjanow, Jolanta	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Morrison, Chris	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Rao, Jyoti	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Rust, Helen	Bronze Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Tissera, Simon	Bronze National
Waverley Bridge Club	Yin, Yong Xiang	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Zhu, Ann	Bronze Local
Whittlesea Bridge Club	Greaves, Barbara	Local
Whittlesea Bridge Club	Keogh, Michael	Bronze Local
Williamstown Bridge Club	Boardman, Heather	Club
Williamstown Bridge Club	Burhop, Roma	Regional
Williamstown Bridge Club	Egan, Sue	Club
Williamstown Bridge Club	Franklyn, Carol	Graduate
Williamstown Bridge Club	Millington, Peter	State
Wodonga Bridge Club	Burr, Nicola	Local
Yarra Valley Bridge Club	Brunlow, Neil	State
Yarra Valley Bridge Club	Galvin, Denise	Bronze Local

Congratulations to all of the above.

THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S PLAYOFF IN CANBERRA

An article by Jenny Thompson

The 2024 Australian Women's team playoff was held in Canberra in the first week of the SFOB. The playoff was held after the National Women's Teams, with the top 4 eligible teams going through to the playoff. Congratulations goes to the winners of the teams, Dagmar Newmann, Marnie Leybourne, Jodi Tutty and Leone Fuller. As Jodi and Dagmar had already qualified to represent Australia in 2024 the team were then ineligible to play and withdrew from the playoff.

Our team finished 4th in the women's teams qualifying event. I was playing with Ella Jacob and our teammates were Renee Cooper and Jane Reynolds. A special congratulations to Ella and Renee. Ella had a very successful week leading up to the playoff at Youth Week winning the Youth Pairs and Teams and the Cliff Wake Challenge. Renee was part of the winning National Open Team. She also played in both events, ie for 2 weeks, as a team of 4, so therefore played over 850 hands.

We played the final against the Lusk team consisting of Susan Humphries with Jessica Brake, Viv Wood with Sue Lusk and Pele Rankin playing with Paula McLeish. The final result was 229.1 to 175, however it was very close. Halfway through the final we were down by 6imps and went into the final set being only 13 ahead.

We will be travelling to Argentina to represent Australia in Buenos Aires from October 22 to November 5.



From left to right – Renee Cooper, Ella Jacob, Jenny Thompson, Jane Reynolds



FEEDBACK

Chris

I had the following hand sitting West and we were not vulnerable and the opponents were.

- ♠ T76
- ♥ 4
- ♦ JT653
- ♣ QJ98

What should I lead?

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♠	P
2♣	p	2♥	P
3♥	p	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♣	P
6♥	P	P	P

3♥ by North is stronger than 4♥ but South didn't cooperate.

North still proceeded and it looks like they are going to see a 4 – 1♥ break (partner having four trumps).

Answer:

Therefore, don't help South, as declarer, setup the ♣ suit (besides North might have AKTXX in the suit and the lead could be disastrous. Also, don't lead declarer's first suit (♠) or a trump (♥). The simple ♦J through the stronger hand is the best chance (no need to look for a spectacular lead – besides partner has the cards to beat the contract if it is beatable.

Please submit your queries to the email address.

editor@bridgevictoria.au

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE SOLUTION

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♠	P	1NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

If declarer has the ♥A and the ♣Q, then declarer has nine tricks at this stage (you know the ♠ suit is producing six tricks) and they would not be leading a ♦. Therefore, declarer is missing one or both of these cards. The lead of a small ♦ away from the ♦K suggests that declarer has the ♦Q. If you allow the ♦Q to take the trick, declarer will have nine tricks when they hold the ♣Q (six ♠s, one ♦ and two ♣s).

So, at this point in the hand, you must rise with ♦A. Partner must hold the ♥A to beat the contract, as you can tell from the 4th best opening lead, that the defence can only cash three ♣ tricks (when partner has the ♣Q).

Hence, you lead the ♥2 and partner will either cash ♣s or play you for the ♥K if they have the ♥AJ (they know that you don't have the ♣Q).

The full hand is as follows (if you duck the ♦ lead from dummy, declarer has nine tricks).

NORTH

♠AKQT98
♥76
♦K65
♣A8

WEST

♠732
♥AJ82
♦98
♣JT73

EAST

♠J65
♥K32
♦AJT
♣K642

SOUTH

♠4
♥QT94
♦Q7432
♣Q95

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – FEB Solution

The following hand took place in a team's event

West leads the \spadesuit K.

NORTH(D)

\spadesuit AJ62
 \heartsuit AK54
 \diamondsuit 52
 \clubsuit KT3

WEST

\spadesuit ?854
 \heartsuit Q32
 \diamondsuit KQT6
 \clubsuit 87

EAST

\spadesuit ?3
 \heartsuit JT98
 \diamondsuit J9843
 \clubsuit 42

SOUTH

\spadesuit KT3
 \heartsuit 76
 \diamondsuit A7
 \clubsuit AQJ965

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1NT	P	3 \clubsuit	P
3 \heartsuit	P	4 \clubsuit	P
4NT	P	5 \diamondsuit	P
6 \clubsuit	P	P	P

1NT is 15-17 and 3 \clubsuit is a slam try.

When North cooperates, South uses Blackwood and

6 \clubsuit is reached.

Decide how you are going to play this hand.

You can always pull trumps and guess who has the \spadesuit Q.

Is there any other possibility?

Hint: the chance that both opponents have two or more \heartsuit s is around 92%.

What is your plan from here?

Option 1, pull trumps and guess who has the \spadesuit Q.

Option 2, how about winning \diamondsuit A and playing one round of trumps toward the \clubsuit K (note you can't perform the following elimination if you play two rounds of trumps as you lack the entries to complete the elimination).

Then cash the \heartsuit A and K and then ruff a \heartsuit back to hand with the \clubsuit 9 (in case West has only two \heartsuit s).

Now a small \clubsuit toward the \clubsuit T.

If \clubsuit s are two – two, you are home as you ruff the last \heartsuit and exit with a \diamondsuit (whoever wins the \diamondsuit must either play a \spadesuit or give you a ruff and a sluff).

If \clubsuit s are three – one, you must pull the last trump and guess the \spadesuit position.

No guessing which option is better.

Option 2 can rarely cost and gives you a major edge if \clubsuit s are two – two.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH DEC 23 SOLUTION

Neither side vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 8762
♥ KT984
♦ A82
♣ 5

WEST

♠ J4
♥ Q32
♦ Q753
♣ AJ76

EAST

♠ QT9
♥ J76
♦ KJT9
♣ KQ4

SOUTH(D)

♠ AK53
♥ A5
♦ 64
♣ T9832

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♣	P
1♥	P	1♠	P
3♠	P	4♠	P

The bidding is as you expect at the 1-level.

After that adrenalin kicks in –

3♠ is bidding your hand to the hilt and then some.

4♠ suggests that I like my ♥A opposite partner's suit and who know partner might have the right hand.

West leads the ♦7 and you realise that the game is very pushy.

Assuming the contract can be made, what layout gives you the best chance and how do you proceed?

This isn't the hardest hand but it does require a clear plan.

What is your plan from here?

You are going to need the ♥ suit to break 3 – 3 or 4 – 2 with the doubleton QJ and, of course, the ♠ suit to break 3 – 2.

The actual layout shown is one type that is necessary.

There are various lines of plays available but you must create a late entry back to dummy to run the ♥ suit and not allow the opponents to pull a trump before you can ruff a ♦.

You have 4 ♥ tricks and one ♦ trick. Therefore, you need five trump tricks to make your contract.

If you win the ♦A and play ♥AK and ruff a ♥, then play the ♠AK, the following situation arises on the next page.

NORTH

♠87
♥T9
♦82
♣5

WEST

♠
♥
♦Q53
♣AJ76

EAST

♠Q
♥
♦KJT
♣KQ4

SOUTH(D)

♠5
♥
♦4
♣T9832

You are in your hand, and whichever minor that you lead, East will win and pull your last trump in your hand and go one down.

Therefore, one way to avoid this is to duck the original ♦ lead, to guarantee an entry to dummy after you play ♥AK and ruff a ♥, then play the ♠AK and not lose the lead to the defence before running the ♥ suit as you go back to dummy.